

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 6, 2004. Claims 1-42 are pending, with claims 1-4, 17-20 and 39-42 being in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 17-20 and 35-42, to correct obvious typographical errors and/or place the claims in better form for examination.

Claims 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office action states that the limitation "function as defined in claim" lacks sufficient antecedent basis.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 35-38, to correct the obvious typographical errors to which the rejection is directed.

Applicant submits that claims 35-38 as amended does not lack antecedent basis, and therefore requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,239,881 to Shaffer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,599 to Oba et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1-4, 17-20 and 39-42 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to communication tools (in the form of devices, methodologies, etc.), and in particular to processing unwanted documents (for example, direct mail, junk mail, etc.) which are received. For example, receipt of unwanted facsimiles can be a burden of operating a facsimile machine. Unwanted facsimiles, if allowed to be automatically printed out when received, causes waste of paper and requires filtering through received facsimiles to separate unwanted facsimiles from the other received facsimiles.

According to the claimed invention, a communication terminal device is provided with a function of rejecting receipt of messages from communication partners who are not registered in a receipt-allowed communication partner registration table. Moreover, the communication terminal device is controlled to collect and store communication control information in connection with messages which arrive from communication partners not registered in the receipt-allowed communication partner registration table, generate a list of image information on the basis of the stored communication control information, and visibly output the list of image information. Thus, waste of paper (from printing of the wanted facsimile and from printing of a receipt rejection report for each rejected facsimile) can be minimized.

The cited art simply does not disclose or suggest each and every one of these features.

Shaffer, as understood by Applicant, appears to be directed to selective reception of facsimiles. According to Shaffer, a station identifier received by a facsimile device from another facsimile machine is checked against a list (stored by the facsimile device) of acceptable facsimile station identifiers. If a match is found, reception of facsimile is allowed to proceed. If no match is found, the facsimile is stored, but not printed. A user can view a portion of the stored facsimile to decide whether to print the facsimile.

Shaffer, as acknowledged in the Office Action, does not disclose or suggest, however, the features of storing communication control information in connection with rejected messages which arrive from communication partners not registered in the receipt-allowed communication partner registration table, generate a list of the

rejected messages on the basis of the stored communication control information, and visibly output the list, as provided by the claimed invention.

Oba does not cure the deficiencies of Shaffer.

Oba, as understood by Applicant, appears to be directed to a facsimile apparatus which is adapted to redirect facsimile data received from a facsimile machine to a personal computer. The facsimile apparatus has the conventional facsimile feature of storing information indicating a result of a transmission, and periodically printing a communication management report containing the transmission result information.

Applicant does not find a teaching or suggestion in the cited art, however, of the features of storing communication control information in connection with rejected messages which arrive from communication partners not registered in the receipt-allowed communication partner registration table, generate a list of the rejected messages on the basis of the stored communication control information, and visibly output the list, as provided by the claimed invention.

Oba simply is not directed to rejection of receipt of messages which arrive from communication partners not registered in a receipt-allowed communication partner registration table.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1-4, 17-20 and 39-42, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our

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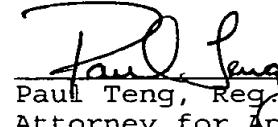
Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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